

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

a1 1. (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a multi-layered moulded synthetic part comprising at least a preformed elastomeric moulded skin and a moulded carrier of a thermoplastic material, which method comprises the steps of:

- a) moulding said preformed elastomeric moulded skin, and
- b) ~~applying~~moulding the thermoplastic material for the carrier in molten state in a mould containing the preformed elastomeric moulded skin and moulding said thermoplastic material in said mould, in molten state, to the back of said moulded skin,

characterized in that said moulded skin is made of a thermosetting synthetic material.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said thermosetting material is a polyurethane material.

3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said preformed skin is made by a spray, a RIM or a slush moulding process starting from a reaction mixture which is allowed to cure to produce the preformed skin.

4. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the thermoplastic material for the carrier is moulded to the back of the skin according to an injection pressure moulding process in said~~a~~ mould which is only partially closed before the thermoplastic material is injected therein in molten state and which is further closed during and/or after the

injection of the thermoplastic material so that a pressure is exerted by the mould onto the molten thermoplastic material.

a 5. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the thermoplastic material for the carrier is moulded to the back of the skin according to a low pressure moulding process in said mould wherein, before closing it, the thermoplastic material is laid down in molten state in the mould and, after having applied this thermoplastic material, the mould is closed so that a pressure is exerted by the mould onto the molten thermoplastic material.

6. (currently amended): A method according to claim 4, characterized in that after having applied the thermoplastic material in said mould, this mould is closed in such a manner that the pressure exerted by the mould on the molten thermoplastic material is situated between 1 and 350 kg/cm² and preferably between 10 and 80 kg/cm².

7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 4, characterized in that said mould is closed within a closing time shorter than 15 seconds, ~~preferably within 2 to 6 seconds.~~

8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the thermoplastic material for the carrier is moulded to the back of the skin according to an injection moulding process in said mould wherein the thermoplastic material is injected in molten state after the mould has been closed.

9. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that, before moulding the thermoplastic material for the carrier to the back of the skin, ~~a softer layer, in~~

~~particular a foam backing layer, is applied against the back of the skin, which softer layer is preferably made of a polyurethane material.~~

10. (previously presented): A method according to claim 9, characterized in that said foam backing layer is sprayed against the skin or is applied thereto in a mould according to a RIM process.

a | 11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said skin is moulded against a mould surface which is either situated in the mould wherein the thermoplastic carrier is moulded or which is transferred thereto after having moulded the skin on this mould surface.

12. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said skin is moulded against a first mould surface and is transferred from this first mould surface to a mould surface of the mould wherein the thermoplastic carrier is moulded.

13. (previously presented): A method according to claim 12, characterized in that said first mould surface shows a superficial texture in order to produce a grained skin.

14. (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the mould surface of the mould to which the moulded skin is transferred is free of any superficial texture.

15. (original): method according to claim 12, characterized in that the mould surface of the mould to which the moulded skin is transferred shows a superficial texture which is, as a result of the pressure and heat applied to the skin during the moulding process of the thermoplastic carrier, transmitted thereto in order to produce a grained skin.

16. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the thermoplastic material from which the carrier is made is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene (PP), polycarbonate (PC), acrylnitril-butadiene-styrol (ABS), ABS blends, in particular a PC/ABS or an ABS/PA blend, acrylester-styrol-acrylnitril (ASA), polystyrol (PS) and thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), preferably from the group consisting of PC, ABS and ABS blends, and most preferably from the group consisting of ABS and ABS blends, in particular a PC/ABS or an ABS/PA blend.

a | 17. (currently amended): A multi-layered moulded synthetic part comprising at least a preformed elastomeric moulded skin and a carrier of a thermoplastic material which is moulded in molten state to the back of said skin, characterized in that said moulded skin is made of a thermosetting synthetic ~~material~~ material.

18. (currently amended): A synthetic part according to claim 17, characterized in that it comprises between the skin and the carrier a ~~layer which is softer than the skin, in particular a~~ foam backing layer, the carrier being moulded against the back of a laminate formed by the skin and the foam backing ~~softer layer, which softer layer is preferably made of a polyurethane~~ material.

19. (previously presented): A synthetic part according to claim 17, characterized in that said thermosetting material is a polyurethane material.

20. (previously presented): A synthetic part according to claim 17, characterized in that said thermoplastic carrier shows a coarse surface on its side directed towards the skin.

21. (new): A method according to claim 5, characterized in that after having applied the thermoplastic material in said mould, this mould is closed in such a manner that the pressure exerted by the mould on the molten thermoplastic material is situated between 1 and 350 kg/cm².

d 22. (new): A method according to claim 5, characterized in that said mould is closed within a closing time shorter than 15 seconds.

23. (new): A method according to claim 21, characterized in that said mould is closed in such a manner that the pressure exerted by the mould on the molten thermoplastic material is situated between 10 and 80 kg/cm².

24. (new): A method according to claim 6, characterized in that said mould is closed in such a manner that the pressure exerted by the mould on the molten thermoplastic material is situated between 10 and 80 kg/cm².

25. (new): A method according to claim 16, characterized in that the thermoplastic material from which the carrier is made is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate (PC), acrylnitril-butadiene-styrol (ABS), ABS blends, acrylester-styrol-acrylnitril (ASA), polystyrol (PS) and thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU).

26. (new): A method according to claim 25, characterized in that the thermoplastic material from which the carrier is made is selected from the group consisting of PC, ABS and ABS blends.

27. (new): A method for manufacturing a multi-layered moulded synthetic part comprising at least a preformed elastomeric moulded skin and a moulded carrier of a thermoplastic material, which method comprises the steps of:

a) moulding said preformed elastomeric moulded skin, and

b) moulding the thermoplastic material for the carrier in molten state to the back of said moulded skin,

characterized in that said moulded skin is made of a thermosetting synthetic material, and

in that the thermoplastic material for the carrier is moulded to the back of the skin

d according to an injection pressure moulding process in a mould which is only partially closed before the thermoplastic material is injected therein in molten state and which is further closed during and/or after the injection of the thermoplastic material so that a pressure is exerted by the mould onto the molten thermoplastic material.

28. (new): A method for manufacturing a multi-layered moulded synthetic part comprising at least a preformed elastomeric moulded skin and a moulded carrier of a thermoplastic material, which method comprises the steps of:

a) moulding said preformed elastomeric moulded skin, and

b) moulding the thermoplastic material for the carrier in molten state to the back of said moulded skin,

characterized in that said moulded skin is made of a thermosetting synthetic material, and

in that the thermoplastic material for the carrier is moulded to the back of the skin

according to a low pressure moulding process in a mould wherein, before closing it, the thermoplastic material is laid down in molten state in the mould and, after having applied this thermoplastic material, the mould is closed so that a pressure is exerted by the mould onto the molten thermoplastic material.

29. (new): A method according to claim 27, characterized in that after having applied the thermoplastic material in said mould, this mould is closed in such a manner that the pressure exerted by the mould on the molten thermoplastic material is situated between 1 and 350 kg/cm².

30. (new): A method according to claim 27, characterized in that said mould is closed within a closing time shorter than 15 seconds.

a 31. (new): A method according to claim 28, characterized in that after having applied the thermoplastic material in said mould, this mould is closed in such a manner that the pressure exerted by the mould on the molten thermoplastic material is situated between 1 and 350 kg/cm².

32 (new): A method according to claim 28, characterized in that said mould is closed within a closing time shorter than 15 seconds.
